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4 SELECT COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE
5 JANUARY 6TH ATTACK ON THE U.S. CAPITOL,
6 U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
7 WASHINGTON, D.C.

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11 INTERVIEW OF: WILLIAM HARRISON

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15 Thursday, April 7, 2022

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17 Washington, D.C.

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20 The interview in the above matter was held via Webex, commencing at 10:04 a.m.

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2 Appearances:

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5 For the SELECT COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE

6 THE JANUARY 6TH ATTACK ON THE U.S. CAPITOL:

7

8 [REDACTED], STAFF ASSOCIATE

9 [REDACTED], SENIOR INVESTIGATIVE COUNSEL

10 [REDACTED], CHIEF INVESTIGATIVE COUNSEL

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12 [REDACTED], SENIOR INVESTIGATIVE COUNSEL

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14

15 For WILLIAM HARRISON:

16

17 STEFAN PASSANTINO,

18 MICHAEL BEST & FRIEDRICH LLP

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2 Mr. [REDACTED]. It's 10:04. We'll go on the record.

3 Good morning.

4 This is a transcribed interview of William Harrison conducted by the House Select
5 Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol pursuant to
6 House Resolution 503.

7 Mr. Harrison, could you please state your full name and spell your last name for
8 the record?

9 Mr. Harrison. Yeah. William Blaylock Harrison, H-a-r-r-i-s-o-n.

10 Mr. [REDACTED]. In the room today are [REDACTED], senior investigative counsel, and
11 I'm [REDACTED], another senior investigative counsel.

12 Mr. [REDACTED]. Good morning.

13 Mr. [REDACTED]. This will be a staff-led interview, and members of the committee
14 may choose to join and ask questions. As of now, there are none with us today.

15 But before we begin, I'll just go over a few ground rules.

16 You are permitted to have an attorney present, and I see you do have your
17 attorney with you.

18 So I'd ask you to please introduce yourself and spell your last name for the record.

19 Mr. Passantino. Yes. Stefan Passantino, P, as in Paul, a-s-s, as in Sam,
20 a-n-t-i-n-o.

21 Mr. [REDACTED]. Thank you.

22 There is an official reporter transcribing the record of this deposition. Please
23 wait until each question is completed before you begin your response, and we'll wait to
24 ask the next question until you're done.

25 We might at some time ask you to spell something if it's not clear for the record.

1 And also, if you give a nonverbal response, like shaking or nodding your head,
2 we'll just ask you to say yes or no so it's clear on the record, okay?

3 Mr. Harrison. Okay.

4 Mr. [REDACTED]. We only ask that you provide complete answers based on the best
5 of your recollection. If a question we ask is not clear, just tell us and we'll do our best to
6 rephrase it. And if you don't know the answer, just say so.

7 Also, I want to remind you, as we do all witnesses, that it is unlawful to
8 deliberately provide false information to Congress.

9 You and your attorney will also have an opportunity to review the transcript once
10 we're done.

11 Okay. So are there any questions before we get going?

12 Mr. Harrison. No.

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EXAMINATION

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BY MR. [REDACTED]

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Q So, Mr. Harrison, how old are you?

5

A 29.

6

Q And what's your highest level of education?

7

A Bachelor's degree from college.

8

Q And what year did you graduate?

9

A 2015.

10

Q What's your current occupation?

11

A Current occupation would be a split between GSA and, yes, a political entity.

12

Q Prior to the jobs you have now, we understand that you worked at the White

13

House. Is that right?

14

A That's right.

15

Q What was the length of your tenure? When did you start and when did you

16

leave?

17

A I started on January 21st of 2017, and my last day was January 20th of 2021.

18

Q Can you just summarize or tell us the roles you had over the course of your

19

4 years with the administration?

20

A Yeah. I started the first year -- the first year and a half, from January of '17

21

to August of -- July of 2018, I was in the Office of Presidential Advance. From July of '18

22

through 2021, I was in kind of a division of the chief of staff's office overseeing White

23

House operations.

24

Q If we're going to focus on the time period of November 2020 to January

25

of 2021, what was your title during that time period?

1 A During that period of November '20 to January of '21, I was deputy assistant
2 to the President for operations.

3 Q Who did you report to during that time?

4 A My direct report was Anthony Ornato, who was the deputy chief of staff for
5 operations.

6 Q Did you have anyone reporting to you during that time period?

7 A No, like, direct reports, but we had kind of oversight and management of a
8 number of different White House divisions, I guess.

9 Q It's a fair point, and actually this leads into the next question.

10 Just at a high level, what were the responsibilities that you had as the deputy chief
11 within the operations?

12 A A lot of oversight. Like I said, oversight kind of within a few different of
13 the supporting entities of the Office of the President itself. Namely, his -- the
14 President's schedule.

15 Kind of the management, M&A side. Kind of the campus, the runnings of the
16 actual White House campus, whether it be facilities, the comings and goings of staff
17 personnel.

18 It would be the President's travel, his Secret Service detail, the White House
19 Military Office, and then the IT, kind of information technology support of the office itself.

20 Q Did you have anybody who was at the same level within you, also a deputy,
21 or were you the only one underneath Mr. Ornato?

22 A It was just me.

23 Q With respect to events off ground, given your background in advance, did
24 you -- was there any particular or special role you played with regard to when the
25 President would travel off White House grounds for any events?

1 A Yeah, we had -- yes. I mean, we kind of were in charge of kind of
2 making -- ensuring the kind of more logistical pieces were in place as it related to, again,
3 his Secret Service, but the White House military, kind of the rolling bubble that allows the
4 President to be the President when he's -- or he or she is outside of the White House.

5 Q As we understand it, the Office of Advance reported in to Mr. Ornato. Is
6 that right?

7 A That's right, yeah.

8 Q We also understand that Mr. Ornato would have at least on a regular basis
9 meetings on Monday, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Is that right?

10 A Yes.

11 Q And what was the purpose of those meetings?

12 A The purpose was to get the heads of each of kind of the divisions that he and
13 by relation that I managed. And it was just to kind of synch up and just kind of make
14 sure that everybody's on the same page with all the different moving pieces.

15 Q So if, for instance, there was an event off White House grounds that was
16 coming up, that would be a topic of conversation at these meetings?

17 A Yeah, that would be brought up.

18 Q Were there any other standing meetings that you had in your role, just on a
19 regular basis, that would relate to the movement of the President off grounds?

20 A Nothing -- nothing standing. Nothing regular. That would be it.

21 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

22 Q Can I just jump in here really quickly?

23 Any other meetings? You said you worked in part or had a role in the President's
24 schedule, or at least knowing what the schedule would be. So were there meetings
25 related to scheduling that you attended regularly?

1 A Not -- I mean, nothing -- I can't remember anything like a regularly scheduled
2 meeting. I mean, I think it was a lot of -- it was just kind of as -- a lot of the stuff was just
3 as it came up. There were -- I think there were efforts to kind of -- I mean, for 4 years
4 there, there were efforts to come up with a system for scheduling that worked.

5 In the heat of, like, the political travel, I think that there was a meeting that
6 occurred. It wasn't regular, but it was when they were getting some direction of where
7 the rallies were going to be, when they were going to be. But again, that was, you
8 know, I don't think it was anything that was on every Wednesday at 10 a.m. or anything
9 like that.

10 Q Okay. Who did you work with? Who were the people in the scheduling
11 office that did scheduling for the White House that you worked with?

12 A So the President's scheduler was Michael Haidet, and he had a team under
13 him of folks that were responsible for vetting the guests in each of the meetings and then
14 just kind of for historical paper purposes with document production and things like that.

15 Q And did you talk to anybody on the campaign or, I guess, in the January
16 period, whatever is left over of the campaign, so to speak, about scheduling?

17 A I wouldn't necessarily talk with them. I think that at that time the
18 coordination was similar to what had been done for any of the previous rallies
19 where there were conversations with the campaign, but that was not me calling the
20 campaign.

21 Q Okay.

22 Mr. [REDACTED]. Was your office in the EEOB near Mr. Ornato's office?

23 Mr. Passantino. Do you have the time period? I'm sorry to interrupt. When
24 are we talking about?

25 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

1 Q I'm just strictly focused on November to January, at the end there.

2 So during that time period, Mr. Harrison, where was your office located?

3 A It was on the first floor of the West Wing.

4 Q Okay. Excuse me, Mr. Ornato in the West Wing. That's right.

5 And were you coming -- we're going to get to January 6th very soon, but just as a
6 general matter, in the time frame we're talking about, were you coming into work on a
7 regular basis?

8 A Yeah.

9 Q When it comes to events that the President would have off the White House
10 grounds, I just want to talk a little bit about how you would receive information about any
11 potential security risks or briefings of that sort.

12 So was there a process in place for you and Mr. Ornato to be informed about if
13 there were risks, and if there were, what they were?

14 A Yeah.

15 Q What was that? How would that work?

16 A That would be intel shared generally by the Secret Service. However it was
17 gathered, that would be the responsibility of the Secret Service to then pass to us
18 generally in those Monday, Wednesday, Friday kind of meetings that you guys
19 mentioned. They would share any -- and that was with anything.

20 I mean, that was -- it could be from, hey, it looks like there is bad weather at this
21 trip site, are we going to be able to take the helicopters in or are we going to have to
22 motorcade? Or it looks like there could be some security risk -- or not security risk -- but
23 there could be some items of interest that are relating to a certain event.

24 Q Within operations, did your -- I'll just call it as a group -- have any role in
25 vetting the intelligence that Secret Service provided, or were you just a consumer of the

1 information?

2 A No, no. I mean, it was, I would say, mainly a consumer of it.

3 Q Okay. You say "mainly." Are there instances you're thinking of --

4 A No, no, no, no. We would be a consumer of it.

5 Q As a lawyer I have to follow up on those.

6 In terms of the format of these briefings, Mr. Harrison, how would the Secret
7 Service give you that information? Would it be oral? Would it be in writing? How
8 would that work?

9 A I can't remember specifically, but it would be a mix of verbal updates and
10 then probably some email updates as well.

11 Q And what would you do with the information? If they informed you that
12 there is a particular kind of security risk, was that something for you and Mr. Ornato to
13 take forward, or was it just informing you that the Secret Service was going to address it
14 and how they would?

15 A Our responsibility was to put that into -- the way that we saw our role with a
16 lot of things was to take otherwise technical or kind of cloudy information from the
17 supporting entities, whether it would be the Secret Service, the military office, and
18 kind of put it in staff-speak.

19 And so we would essentially go and take that and give it to the chief of staff's
20 office.

21 Q Now, over your 4 years in being in D.C., I think you know in your role there
22 are a lot of different law enforcement agencies that have jurisdiction overlapping in the
23 city.

24 Just as a general matter, would you get intelligence from other law enforcement
25 agencies in the city, or would it come through the Secret Service and their own efforts

1 and that's who you would receive it from, if it related to movement, say, specifically in
2 D.C.?

3 Does that make sense? I'm just trying to get a sense, would you get a briefing,
4 say, from MPD, or would you get information from Capitol Police or the Park Service, or it
5 would just be the Secret Service that would filter that --

6 A No, I mean, it would be -- it was from the Secret Service. Nothing from
7 MPD. Nothing from -- yeah.

8 Q So if -- I mean, I think we can move past the general to the specific, unless
9 Mr. [REDACTED] has questions.

10 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

11 Q Two quick follow-ups.

12 You mentioned M&A back when you are talking about your responsibilities.
13 What does that mean?

14 A Management and Administration. Yeah.

15 Q Is that a separate office within the White House?

16 A It is.

17 Q Okay. And you would coordinate with them in order to fulfill your job
18 duties?

19 A That's right.

20 Q Got it.

21 You just mentioned, too, that on some of the information that you'd be
22 consuming or that operations would be consuming, you'd put it in staff-speak and give it
23 to the chief of staff's office. Can you explain that a little bit more?

24 A Yeah. I mean, any specific?

25 Q Yeah. So if you get something from the Secret Service, it's a report or

1 something -- I'm not asking about anything specifically unless you want to give an
2 example -- but you take it in, do you have a requirement to write a memo, to draft an
3 email?

4 A No, no. I mean, it would generally be a verbal update.

5 Q And would you provide that directly to Mark Meadows in this period,
6 November through January?

7 A Yeah.

8 Q How would you decide which things you'd give to Mr. Meadows as an
9 update from this, these intelligence items that are coming in?

10 A I think that it was anything that was -- that we deemed significant.

11 Q Okay. Is there a general -- could you explain generally -- and maybe you
12 can't -- but is there something that you would always deem significant, for example?

13 A I can't give any -- I can't think of any specific example. I mean, there just I
14 think with anything you can kind of get a sense of what needs to be elevated and what
15 doesn't, or what can be handled at a -- that doesn't need to be elevated, I guess.

16 Q Okay. All right. And we'll get into some of that. We have some
17 documents that we would want to show you.

18 But I'd imagine, and I don't want to put words in your mouth though, Mr.
19 Harrison, like a terrorism threat or a valid threat, that'd be something that you would
20 want to run up the chain, so to speak?

21 A Yes, that would be significant.

22 Q Okay. Got it. Great. And we can work around the edges and see some
23 of the things we're looking at, what might qualify, too. But that's a helpful
24 understanding. I appreciate it.

25 Mr. [REDACTED]. Did Mr. Meadows have a preferred format to receive that

1 information, in writing or rather in person or orally, over the phone?

2 Mr. Harrison. I don't know if it was a preferred, but it was largely just by
3 proximity. Where our offices were you could generally pass information. Verbally was
4 the quickest way to do it most of the time.

5 Mr. [REDACTED]. On that last point, your office, was it the same floor as Mr.
6 Meadows' or one below it?

7 Mr. Harrison. Same floor.

8 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

9 Q So do you remember how and when you first learned that the President
10 would be speaking at the event on January 6th on the Ellipse? Approximately.

11 A The how would be we probably would have been told -- again, and that's a
12 probably, I don't remember exactly -- the way that it likely would have happened would
13 have been notification from Mark Meadows saying that the President has agreed to do a
14 rally or do a speech at this time.

15 Q Do you remember -- maybe we'll use a guidepost -- was it before the
16 holidays at the end of December that you learned or was it after? Do you remember?

17 A I don't remember.

18 Q Why don't I do this to help put us -- for context.

19 Given it was the holiday season around that time, was there any time where you
20 were off work that you remember, you were on leave?

21 A Yeah, I was off from Christmas through New Year's through -- yeah, so
22 Christmas through New Year's I was kind of on leave.

23 Q And New Year's Day was a Friday, which means the next business day it was
24 Monday, January 4th, which puts January 6th on a Wednesday. Does that sound right to
25 you?

1 A I think that's right, yeah.

2 Q Yeah. Were you back at the office on Monday, January 4th?

3 A I believe so.

4 Q And were you in the office on January 5th?

5 A Yes.

6 Q And were you at the office on January 6th?

7 A Yes.

8 Q We understand that Mr. Ornato, like you, was also on leave during the
9 holiday period, but was back to work on Monday the 4th through the 6th. That sounds
10 right to you?

11 A That sounds right, yeah.

12 Q Okay. What is your first memory of being involved in any discussions about
13 actually the specifics of the events, the January 6th Ellipse event?

14 A I mean, first memory would be just the logistical items of everything from
15 the stage to how many people might be there. The method of the President getting
16 there. And that would be -- I mean, that was kind of the early, I guess, early stages.

17 Q Do you recall working or hearing about that while you were on your break,
18 or was it when you got back to work on January 4th? Do you remember?

19 A I don't remember specifically. But -- yeah, I don't remember specifically. I
20 mean, it would have -- those things take time. So it would have been probably before.
21 But I can't remember specifics.

22 Q When we've talked to other people about how they characterize events the
23 President appears at, most people talk about a difference between an official event and a
24 political event. Do those characterizations make sense to you?

25 A That's right.

1 Q What was your understanding of the nature of the event on the 6th at the
2 Ellipse between those two?

3 A It was a political event.

4 Q And did the fact that the President would be appearing at a political event,
5 did that change in any way the standard process that you all would go through on the
6 operations and advance side for how you handled the event?

7 A The ownership was shifted a little bit where the kind of host group was more
8 of the political entity or organization that was behind it, which would have been the
9 campaign and the other kind of fringe groups that were associated with the campaign.
10 But they largely would have control. And it was our -- at least for the way that
11 the political events were broken down, it was just kind of we would take a back seat and
12 make sure that the items were in place that had to be in place for a number of different
13 continuity reasons and things like that.

14 Q Okay. Was there anything about the planning and work on this event that
15 stood out as unusual or out of the ordinary based on your experience over the 4 years?

16 A I mean, the location, I guess. I mean, just that we hadn't done a rally or a
17 speech on the Ellipse. And anything, any event on the Ellipse is a little unusual. Even
18 like the Christmas tree lighting just presents challenges because you have to go through a
19 bunch of hula hoops with NPS and others. But nothing that sticks out.

20 Q I know [REDACTED] will get into more specifics on certain points, but I just
21 want to ask, can you summarize what your role was working on the events, if any?

22 A I mean, I wasn't too involved with it. For the actual event itself it was kind
23 of dealing more with the staff that was hoping to and looking to participate, and then
24 essentially directing them of how to get there. And for others that were not
25 participating it was, how do people come into work that were supposed to come into

1 work. How do they get in the office through the barricades and the traffic patterns that
2 were set up. That was basically the extent of it.

3 Q Was the event a topic of conversation at one of or more than one of Mr.
4 Ornato's Monday, Wednesday, Friday meetings that you can recall?

5 A Yeah.

6 Q Was it at least on Monday, January 4th, discussed, that you can recall?

7 A I mean, it probably was.

8 Q Okay. Do you remember ever receiving any sort of security briefing or
9 information from the Secret Service regarding the event?

10 A Yeah. I mean, I think that we were able to get an idea of just how many
11 people they were expecting to be in the area. That was something that was regularly
12 passed for -- you would get that for -- we would get that for any event. Like I was
13 saying, you would get planned protests, you would get registered protests, you would get
14 a kind of a sense of that.

15 But that also includes interest in an event. I can't remember specifically when
16 that started, but we were given an idea of just how many people would be in the
17 downtown area.

18 Q Now, we'll get into documents and specifics about this, but did you
19 understand at the time that the Vice President on the 6th would be at the Capitol for the
20 joint session of Congress?

21 A Not really.

22 Q Okay. So as part of your discussions that you remember about the Ellipse
23 event, did it also include any discussion about what the security profile would look like at
24 the Capitol while the Vice President was there?

25 Mr. Passantino. I'm sorry to interrupt. You can ask him.

1 Because there is a court reporter here, just make sure he gets to ask his full
2 question before you answer.

3 Go ahead. I'm sorry I interrupted you.

4 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

5 Q No, no, it's fine. Thank you for saying that.

6 But do you understand what I'm asking, Mr. Harrison, just whether there was any
7 discussion about in the meeting, the one meeting or meetings that you were in, about the
8 security posture up at the Capitol that day?

9 A Not that I remember.

10 Q Was there any other group within the White House who was responsible for
11 the security or events for the Vice President?

12 A Yes.

13 Q And what was that group? Was it operation-specific to the Vice President?
14 Or what was it?

15 A Yeah, it would be the Vice President's staff. They had a similar staff
16 structure. But a lot of that was driven through in his chief. He didn't necessarily have
17 an operations person, it was mainly his chief of staff that would -- and then would work
18 through the Vice President's protective detail, which is a kind of a separate arm.

19 Q At any point before the event on the 6th, so before the President took the
20 stage on the 6th to speak, were you involved in or at least present for any discussions
21 about whether the President would tell or encourage people at the Ellipse to go to the
22 Capitol after he was done speaking?

23 A No. No real conversations. I mean, it was -- no, nothing.

24 Q Did you understand prior to the 6th that he would say something to that
25 effect to the crowd and that people [inaudible] have them go to the Capitol after he was

1 done?

2 A No.

3 Q Did you have any discussions prior to January 6th about whether -- or were
4 you present for any discussions about whether the President himself would travel to the
5 Capitol after he was done speaking that day?

6 A There was -- I mean, probably. There was contingency planning, just like
7 we would do contingency planning for anything, in the event that the President expressed
8 a strong desire to go up there. What would that -- what might that look like? Is that
9 even a possibility? Could that even happen?

10 And my memory is that, however many days prior to the actual event itself, there
11 was kind of a general agreement across multiple different -- a number of different people
12 that that was just not a real possibility, and that if it were to come up, that the answer
13 should be no.

14 Q What prompted that discussion, that that was even something that needed
15 to be planned for or thought about?

16 A I think it was -- I can speculate -- but it would be, again, contingency planning
17 and just making sure that you're prepared for just about anything that could be thrown at
18 you.

19 Q Right. But specific to the President himself going up to the Capitol, why
20 was that a contingency plan? He could travel to a lot of different places. Why was that
21 particularly something that was discussed and considered?

22 A You know, that I don't know.

23 Q Do you remember who told you or first brought it up as something to think --

24 A No.

25 Q -- about?

1 A Sorry. No.

2 Q Did you ever have any conversations with -- do you remember having
3 conversations with anybody specific about this topic?

4 A No. I mean, Tony and I probably would have discussed it. But specific
5 memories, no.

6 Q Do you recall discussing it generally with the Secret Service about whether it
7 was a good idea or not?

8 A Well, I mean, it wasn't anything about a good idea, but it was -- any
9 conversations that would have happened would have just been -- logistically been, you
10 know, realistically, could something like that happen?

11 Q Well, did you have conversations of that nature with the Secret Service?

12 A I did not. Again, I don't -- I probably don't need to speculate. But I would
13 imagine that Tony would speak with Bob Engel, who was the head of the President's
14 security detail, about that specific item.

15 Q So you were hearing this, as you remember, from Tony Ornato telling you
16 about this?

17 A That's right. Yeah.

18 Q So why was it -- so you don't have to put it in a good or bad idea -- why was
19 it not something that could be done?

20 A Well, I think it was more of, if the President were to go there, there was no
21 real kind of plan or -- like it just -- we couldn't come together, because if the President
22 were to go up there, there was a question of what he would do, where he would go.
23 And none of those questions really could be answered.

24 Q Who was being asked those questions? I mean, you could figure out where
25 he could go and figure out a plan, the Secret Service could, I would imagine. So who was

1 not providing the answers, to your knowledge?

2 A That would be -- that would have been direction from Mark Meadows.

3 Q Do you remember talking with Mark Meadows about this?

4 A No.

5 Q Now, in your 4 years, I imagine there were times when the President did
6 travel to the Capitol. Is that right?

7 A That's right.

8 Q All right. At least for the State of the Union addresses?

9 A Yes.

10 Q And were there times when he would go up there, say, for lunches or
11 something of the sort, meetings with people on the Hill?

12 A That's right.

13 Q All right. So it is possible for him to travel and travel safely up to the
14 Capitol?

15 A That's right.

16 Q So specific to this day on January 6th, why could no such plans be put in
17 place? Again, I'm just trying to understand specifically why on this day it was viewed as
18 not possible.

19 A I think it was probably due to the number of people that were expected to
20 be in and around the Capitol.

21 Q Okay. Did you understand that, in fact, protesters would be going to the
22 Capitol that day?

23 A You know, I don't know if there was -- I don't know if we were aware of a
24 specific organized plan for folks to be in a specific location. But I think it was just the
25 numbers of that was a possibility.

1 Q Okay. Now, were you familiar with the prior post-election rallies that took
2 place in D.C., the first on November 14th of 2020, the second on December 12th of 2020?
3 Do you remember those?

4 A I mean, not specifically. I mean, I remember them occurring, but I actually
5 don't remember where they were or --

6 Q How about this? Do you remember the President driving by a rally at
7 Freedom Plaza on November 14th --

8 A Yes.

9 Q -- in the motorcade? You do?

10 A Yes.

11 Q Were you involved in the planning for that?

12 A No.

13 Q When did you first learn that the President was going to be traveling, or did
14 you learn after the fact?

15 A I actually learned about that on Twitter after the fact.

16 Q And did you speak with people within the White House with actual
17 knowledge of how that came to pass after the fact?

18 A After the fact, yes. I mean, it was -- yes.

19 Q Did you learn that it was put together the morning of the event, the plan for
20 him to travel?

21 A That is my understanding. But the plan was for him to go -- I think that he
22 was going either to the golf -- I think he was going to the golf course, and I think it
23 was more of an impromptu: Can we redirect and go through, you know, near this
24 crowd?

25 Q And the Secret Service made it happen apparently.

1 A Yes, yeah, it happened.

2 Q And are you familiar -- the event in December -- see if this rings a bell -- that
3 the President flew over the event in Marine One on his way to the Army-Navy football
4 game? Are you aware of that?

5 A I remember again after the fact.

6 Q And did you hear after the fact that the route was changed at his request so
7 he could fly over the rally?

8 A Again, after the fact they -- that sounds -- I mean, that's a possibility.

9 Q Did you hear that he had -- did you learn that the President had requested
10 actually that date to drive up to the Capitol instead of flying?

11 A No.

12 Q Okay.

13 Mr. Passantino. Even though you know where the question is going, just let him
14 ask it for the court reporter.

15 Mr. Harrison. Sorry.

16 Mr. [REDACTED]. It's no need to apologize, but it's good advice.

17 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

18 Q So did one or both of those events at least inform why there was a
19 discussion regarding January 6th about a contingency for the President possibly traveling
20 to the Capitol?

21 A Yeah, most likely just to have a plan in place, again, if that was to be brought
22 up.

23 Q Did you ever hear before January 6th that the President himself had asked if
24 he could go to the Capitol after he spoke on the 6th, before the day of?

25 A No, not from him.

1 Q Did you hear from someone else that he had specifically said he was
2 interested in traveling to the Capitol that day?

3 A No.

4 Q I think, turning back to the security briefings, Mr. [REDACTED] can probably ask
5 questions, can walk you through more specific to that.

6 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

7 Q I do. And I just have a few follow-ups.

8 I think Mr. [REDACTED] asked you about any discussions you may have been a part of
9 involving the President's possible desire to have people go to the Capitol on January the
10 6th.

11 Apart from any specific discussions that you may have been a part of or weren't a
12 part of, did you ever hear before January 6th that the President wanted people to march
13 to the Capitol or protest at the Capitol?

14 A No.

15 Q Were you aware of any other locations where the President considered
16 speaking on January 6th other than the Ellipse?

17 And I say that only because we have developed some information that suggests he
18 considered speaking maybe on the White House grounds, on the Ellipse, or even at the
19 Capitol that day.

20 Were you aware of any of that?

21 A No.

22 Q Any discussions you've heard about that or discussions you heard about
23 concerning that topic?

24 A I mean, if anything, it was stuff that I had actually just read in the news in the
25 last year, year and a couple months.

1 Q Okay. All right. And I appreciate you making that distinction. That's not
2 something that we're interested in, anything that you've read, just your firsthand
3 account. So I appreciate that acknowledgment.

4 And you mentioned Mr. Meadows earlier. Did you participate in any meetings,
5 whether actively or passively, about January 6th with Mr. Meadows?

6 A I mean, aside from passing the kind of intel updates, nothing else.

7 Q Okay. And what intel updates do you remember passing to Mr. Meadows
8 about January 6th?

9 A I believe that it was --

10 Q Prior to January 6th, yes.

11 A I think -- I believe that it was just kind of the numbers, the flood of numbers
12 that was expected.

13 Q And to be clear for the record, the flood of numbers meaning the potential
14 number of people who were coming to D.C. for the events on January the 6th?

15 A That's right.

16 Q Okay.

17 Were you aware of any discussions about risk of violence on January 6th?

18 A No.

19 Q Okay. And when I say risk of violence, I don't just mean people potentially
20 attacking each other at the Capitol or going to the Capitol, but actual maybe violence
21 between protesters and counterprotesters as well.

22 So do you remember any talk about that?

23 A No.

24 Q Were you aware of anybody else in the White House who was having
25 conversations about the potential for violence on January the 6th?

1 A No.

2 Q And I'll represent to you that we have developed information suggesting that
3 Mr. Ornato had a discussion, at least one, with Mr. Meadows about the potential risk of
4 violence on January 6th.

5 Are you aware of Mr. Ornato ever expressing concerns or just the fact that there
6 may be violence on January the 6th?

7 A I mean, if that conversation happened, that was something that I was not a
8 part of. So I don't know.

9 Q Okay. And understanding you weren't a part of that conversation, did you
10 ever hear anything about that conversation or conversations like that?

11 A No.

12 Q Are you aware of violence at other "stop the steal" rallies, including on
13 December 12th in Washington? And that was the date of a rally after which there was a
14 clash between counterprotesters and protesters.

15 A I mean, I don't remember specifically, but I have, I mean, probably
16 saw kind of details about that afterwards, either through just -- through reporting
17 probably.

18 Q Okay. Do you remember seeing that type of reporting before January 6th
19 while you working in the White House? And I ask only to see whether it informed any
20 discussions in the lead-up to January 6th?

21 A No.

22 Q Okay. So Mr. [REDACTED] mentioned that we have some documents to show
23 you. And hopefully some of these, understanding you probably haven't seen in a while,
24 but if you have any recollection of them.

25 Let me see if I can figure this out.

1 All right. So I'm showing you here exhibit No. 1. And just let us know if you can
2 see that first.

3 A Yep, we can see it.

4 Q Perfect. And is it big enough for you to be able to read, or do you want me
5 to zoom in?

6 A If you could zoom in just a touch, that would be great.

7 Q Yeah. Let's try that. Okay. Perfect.

8 All right. So this is exhibit No. 1. It's an email from Robert Engel on December
9 the 9th to Tony Ornato, copying a number of people, including, I believe, you, Mr.
10 Harrison, as well as a number of others with Secret Service indicators in their email
11 address to me.

12 So, first, I'll ask you, is that your email address in the CC line for William B.
13 Harrison? Or is that how you were reflected, I'm sorry, on the email, because it doesn't
14 have the address, I don't believe?

15 A Yeah, yes. That would be me.

16 Q Okay. And then Robert Engel, who's that?

17 A Robert Engel, Bob Engel, who was the -- he was the special agent in charge
18 of the President's Secret Service detail at the time.

19 Q All right. And then that was to Tony Ornato, who was your supervisor, your
20 boss at the White House, correct?

21 A That's right.

22 Q Okay. So the subject of this email is "Demo Activity Planned for Saturday,
23 December 12th, 2020." And then it has two paragraphs followed by a sentence and Mr.
24 Engel's signature line.

25 First of all, do you recognize this email? And can you just explain generally what

1 this type of email is and how it relates to your job at the White House or related to your
2 job at the White House?

3 A Yeah. So I don't remember this specific email, mainly because this was a
4 pretty common email, at least this type of email.

5 This was passed for awareness kind of as we continued to again have kind of
6 oversight of the White House campus itself, with people coming in and out.

7 We were over the last -- over a couple years there was protests that would block
8 entrances. There were special events that would jam up downtown that would result in
9 people having to be redirected that were trying to come to work.

10 But that was -- these types of communication were distributed as an awareness
11 type of tool.

12 Q It sounds like these emails and these types of emails weren't necessarily
13 dependent on the President participating in an event, but just generally what's going on
14 in Washington. Is that a fair assessment?

15 A Yes, that's correct.

16 Q Okay. Based on this -- we know the President, as Mr. Tonolli just
17 mentioned, I believe flew over this particular event that was planned for Saturday the
18 12th.

19 Do you know if any of these emails were related to his decision to fly over the
20 event, the rally on the 12th?

21 A Not that I know of.

22 Mr. [REDACTED]. Do you have anything else on this?

23 Mr. [REDACTED]. No.

24 Mr. [REDACTED]. I'll take this down.

25 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

1 Q Somewhat of a related topic. Were you aware of any discussions prior to
2 January 6th about the National Guard being present for the rally or anything to do with
3 the joint session of Congress on January the 6th?

4 A No.

5 Q And I believe I just asked you if you were aware of them, but did you ever
6 hear about them as well, discussions happening within the White House about the
7 National Guard?

8 A Not that I remember.

9 Q Okay. So you're not aware then of any orders, for example, given to the
10 National Guard to appear in Washington on January the 6th?

11 A No.

12 Mr. [REDACTED]. Anything else?

13 Mr. [REDACTED]. No.

14 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

15 Q All right. So I'm going to pull up another exhibit. This one's exhibit 2.
16 Let's zoom in there again.

17 All right. Can you see exhibit No. 2, Mr. Harrison?

18 A Yes.

19 Q All right. This is another email from Robert Engel. It looks to be the same
20 one as the prior exhibit. This one's dated January the 4th, it says 2:02 p.m., addressed
21 to Tony Ornato. And then in the CC line, again, it's you as well as some folks from the
22 Secret Service.

23 This one is "Subject: Forward: Update on Expected Activity for Wednesday,
24 January 6th, '21," with an attachment apparent file number. Mr. Engel forwarded, it
25 says, "For awareness."

1 And this was coming from Mr. Schierloh from the Secret Service dated the same
2 day, to Mr. Engel and Mr. [REDACTED] and Mr. [REDACTED]?

3 I don't believe we spoke about Mr. Arruda, but who is that?

4 A [REDACTED] was a Secret Service agent. He was the deputy special agent in
5 charge of the President's detail with -- he had a responsibility of the White House
6 campus.

7 Q What follows in this email is a list of, I believe, over 40 listed events
8 scheduled for January the 6th. And it says -- we don't have it in color, but it does say
9 here, "Please note: Demonstrations of significance are highlighted in yellow."

10 So looking at this portion of it, in this email, do you recognize it or remember this
11 email?

12 A No.

13 Q Do you remember receiving a list of events that were scheduled for
14 January 6th? And I'm just scrolling down through the bottom of page 1 through page 2.

15 A I don't remember receiving it, no.

16 Q Do you remember receiving anything like it, a list of all the events that were
17 planned in Washington on the 6th?

18 A No specific memory. But, again, I'm not surprised that this type of
19 information was -- I mean, this was regularly sent out.

20 Q Do you know who compiles the information that are sent out in emails like
21 this?

22 A I don't know for a fact, but I would imagine that it's the intel division of the
23 Secret Service.

24 Q All right. Maybe, to be precise, are you aware of anybody working in the
25 Office of the President who compiled information like this, as opposed to Secret Service?

1 A Oh. No.

2 Q So I know you said you don't recall this specific email, but do you remember
3 meetings or discussions, perhaps the standing meeting that you had with Mr. Ornato,
4 about the various events that were going to be happening on January the 6th in D.C.?

5 A I'm sorry, the question was, do I remember --

6 Q Any meetings that you had with Mr. Ornato -- or others -- about the various
7 events that were going to be happening in Washington on the 6th?

8 A Nothing specifically. It would have been brought up just -- there's a lot of
9 stuff happening. A lot of it is not -- will have no impact to us.

10 Q Okay. Can you tell us about any meetings that you do remember where
11 the events of January 6th were discussed? And it sounds like there may have been one
12 on the Monday meeting on the 4th?

13 A I mean, it probably would have been on the Monday kind of regularly
14 scheduled meeting, but it was not -- the event itself wouldn't have been discussed in like
15 any serious detail. It would have been, hey, we're -- again, this is -- I don't remember
16 this specifically, so I don't know the value.

17 But it would have been, hey, we're expecting this many people will be around.
18 The President's going to leave at this time. This is how he's getting there. That kind of
19 basic info.

20 Q Okay. And do you remember any discussions -- and if so, can you describe
21 them -- just about how other events happening in Washington on the 6th were going to
22 affect the President and the President's movements to and from the rally?

23 A I don't know that any of them were going to just based off of where the -- so
24 to answer your question, no. I don't think there were any conversations about the other
25 events and their impacts.

1 I mean, I think it was -- there was an understanding that because the rally -- or the
2 speech rally was on the Ellipse, it was pretty easy to get in and out of, and there was not
3 too much area of concern.

4 Q I'll represent to you, Mr. Harrison, that this email is dated January the 4th at
5 2:02:18 p.m., but my understanding is that the top email in how we're receiving these
6 records is in Greenwich time or Universal time. So I think it's actually 5 hours earlier.
7 And if you can look at the email that Mr. Engel forwards, it's actually 8:58 in the morning.

8 The reason I'm asking this is, what time do you remember the Monday,
9 Wednesday, Friday meetings being scheduled for with Mr. Ornato?

10 A I believe those were at 9 a.m.

11 Q Okay. Now this says, "Demonstrations of significance are highlighted in
12 yellow." I understand you don't remember this email specifically, but do you remember
13 getting other emails where significant information from the Secret Service is highlighted
14 in yellow?

15 A I don't remember specific examples, but, again, not uncommon. Also one
16 thing is those meetings were at 10 a.m., not 9 a.m. I do remember that.

17 Q Okay. I appreciate you clarifying that. Thank you.

18 A Yeah.

19 Q I just want to go through a few of this just to see if it refreshes any memory
20 you might have.

21 But the first event that's listed there as number one on the bottom of page 1 talks
22 about on January 6th, at an unknown time, "Women for America First and March for
23 Trump will host a demonstration in Washington called 'March for Trump.' The purpose
24 of this demonstration is to 'demand transparency and protect election integrity.' There
25 is to indication of civil disobedience. Current number of planned participants were

1 unavailable."

2 Number two, similar paragraph, but this one is about the Proud Boys RID, about
3 hosting an unnamed demonstration. It goes on to say that, "The group advised they
4 won't wear their traditional black and yellow attire and will dress 'incognito.' The group
5 self-reported plans to demonstrate in smaller groups throughout D.C." Numbers aren't
6 indicated. And I'm summarizing part of that there.

7 It looks to me that that second one is highlighted in yellow, but based on the
8 record, we don't have it in color.

9 But do you remember any discussions about the Proud Boys and what they might
10 be doing on January 6th in the lead-up to January 6th?

11 A No, I don't remember anything.

12 Q I'm going to go to page 6. At the bottom there, between page 6 and
13 page 7, it says, "On January the 6th, at 11 a.m., individuals Patti Lynn and Dawn Donahue
14 will host a demonstration called 'Fight for Trump' at the U.S. Capitol. The purpose of the
15 demonstration is to support President Trump. No indication of civil disobedience.
16 According to Facebook, 6 people are going, and 13 are interested."

17 I neglected to ask you this before, but in parentheses it says NRID, and above I
18 think it said RID.

19 Do you know what those parentheticals mean, RID or NRID?

20 A I don't know specifics --

21 Q What do you understand them -- apologies, Mr. Harrison. Go ahead.

22 A Sorry. I think that's if there's like a name-on-record-type situation, that if
23 they have been identified before or -- again, I don't know that for a fact, but I think that's
24 what that is.

25 Q Okay. So this one, in particular, this one comes up again. I'm going to

1 show you another exhibit with it. And I won't go through every single one of these, but
2 I'll represent to you that just based on the numbering system on the side, the entries for
3 No. 4, No. 5, No. 6, No. 12, 17, 20, 24, and it goes on, but they do talk about
4 demonstrations being at the Capitol or referencing the U.S. Capitol that day.

5 Do you remember any discussions at all about rallies or protests or any organized
6 activity at the U.S. Capitol on the 6th?

7 A No.

8 Q Are you aware of any effort from Mr. Ornato, yourself, or anybody else at
9 the White House to notify Congress about any information related to the U.S. Capitol on
10 the 6th?

11 A I did not have that conversation, but I'm confident that that notification was
12 passed.

13 Q What makes you confident of that?

14 A Because I think of the way that we elevated the information, "we" being
15 Tony and myself, kind of passing this for awareness to the chief of staff, who -- my
16 understanding was that that was going to be given to the Hill.

17 And I think that there was also some -- it wasn't from a staff level. This type of
18 information from a law enforcement level was also -- Secret Service is in communication
19 with MPD and with the Capitol Police, and all of this information is shared.

20 Q Okay. So let's talk about some of the things you just mentioned.

21 Do you know that this particular information -- I understood earlier you didn't
22 recognize this email list like this -- but do you know that this information was shared for a
23 fact?

24 A For a fact, no.

25 Q Okay. And you said that you talked about elevating information to Mr.

1 Meadows. Tell us about the information that you elevated to Mr. Meadows about the
2 U.S. Capitol before the 6th?

3 A My understanding was that this type of information, just general, again,
4 general awareness of, hey, there is going to be some events at the Capitol, again, nothing
5 in great detail, but there will be some organized events taking place in the general vicinity
6 of the Capitol, there is a range of different people that have committed online to going,
7 and others there's some interest, others have different ranges of interest. And that
8 would be the extent of it.

9 Q Was there a specific meeting where that happened? Or how did that
10 notification go to Mr. Meadows?

11 A I don't remember any planned scheduled meeting. If anything, it would
12 have been just a kind of a pull-aside format or Tony would have popped his head in
13 Mark's office and said, hey, if you got a second, I've got an update. But nothing like a
14 planned sit-down.

15 Q Okay. So I just want to be very clear about this. Do you know that Mr.
16 Ornato spoke with Mr. Meadows about the events that were scheduled to take place at
17 the Capitol on the 6th?

18 A As a fact, no.

19 Q Okay. So what makes you say what you just said?

20 A Because that would be the process. Again, I don't have a specific memory
21 of that happening, but that is how it would go.

22 Q And you mentioned just a minute ago -- I want to get this as right as I can, so
23 if I get it wrong please tell me -- but you mentioned that there could have been a
24 discussion about events that were discussed online related to the Capitol on January the
25 6th.

1 What did you mean by that, discussions from online about the Capitol?

2 A Discussions online, that's how -- so each of the bullets that you -- that are
3 listed in front of us -- "According to Facebook, 109 people are going, 198 are
4 interested" -- that's all open-source information that is -- they have teams that monitor
5 the events, the registered events, that are tracking the RSVPs. And those numbers are
6 pulled directly from the events' websites.

1

2 [11:03 a.m.]

3

BY MR. [REDACTED]:

4

5

Q You just mentioned Facebook, and that's listed here in exhibit No. 2 that we're looking at as well.

6

7

8

Are you aware of anybody in the White House between that period of November and January 6th in particular that knew about the website TheDonald.Win? Have you ever heard of that?

9

A No.

10

11

Q And so you've never heard of it, and you're not aware of anybody else who was familiar with it?

12

A No.

13

Q Bear with us just a moment, Mr. Harrison.

14

15

I'm going to show you one more exhibit that's like this, exhibit No. 8 -- figure this out.

16

17

18

19

20

21

Exhibit No.8 is an email from [REDACTED] to Mr. Ornato. You are not copied on this one. This is dated the December 28th. Again, depending on the time stamp, which may be universal time, it's 11:50 shows on that top email, subject being demonstrations in Washington, D.C., on January the 6th, with attachments, DC demonstrations 1/6/21 with PDF with for your situational awareness for [REDACTED] Again, this was a forwarding email from [REDACTED] PID.

22

Do you know who [REDACTED] is?

23

A No.

24

25

Q Do you know who any of the folks on this email, the forwarded email, that's dated December 28, at 18:39, are?

1 A So, backing up just a touch, I don't know [REDACTED], but in parenthesis
2 PID. PID is Protective Intelligence Division, and that's the -- those are the folks that are,
3 you know, constantly monitoring, you know, threats, a range of different threats, but a lot
4 of it was, like I was saying, online, you know, checking the RSVP numbers of events that
5 had been publicized and published online.

6 Q Okay. That's very helpful. I appreciate that. So this is from
7 December 28, and it's talking about demonstrations on January 6th, so over a week out.

8 Do you remember any discussions about the various events happening that early,
9 meaning December 28, as opposed to in the days leading up to January 6th, on the 4th or
10 5th?

11 A Nothing specific. I mean, you know, these types of emails and these types
12 of events became, you know, pretty routine -- there was a lot of them. So, again, these
13 were -- most of these emails, if not all of the emails, were sent just for awareness
14 purposes.

15 Q In this exhibit, exhibit No. 8, on page No. 4, it's an event, says, on
16 January 6th, '21, middle of the page, 11 a.m., right where my cursor is, talks about the
17 fight for Trump demonstration, again. And then attached to this email were looks like
18 screen shots of Facebook posts.

19 Do you remember receiving emails that had attached social media posts about
20 upcoming events that Secret Service was -- I don't want to say monitoring, but aware of?

21 A No specific memory, but, again, not surprised that -- I mean -- and I don't
22 have a specific memory of a one specific email, but I do remember, you know, receiving,
23 like you're saying, this type of email with an attachment of a screen shot or, you know,
24 some kind of supplementary info that listed the -- you know, the organizer's details of the
25 events similar to this screen shot.

1 Q Okay. I want to go to page 20. It sounds like you don't remember
2 receiving this specifically. And it's pretty difficult to see, but this is the Fight for Trump
3 Facebook entry that's referenced in the email we just looked at, as well as the other email
4 from the prior exhibit.

5 But if you look in here, the portion I just blew up, where my cursor is, it says a
6 bunch of things. But one of it, it says: We need to flood the Capitol Building and show
7 America and the Senators and Representatives inside that we won't stand for election
8 fraud.

9 Do you remember any discussions at all in the days leading up to January 6th
10 about people going into the Capitol, demonstrating at the Capitol, protesting at the
11 Capitol, or --

12 A No --

13 Q -- anything like that on January 6th?

14 A Sorry. No.

15 Q You know, on January 6th, I know [REDACTED] asked you if you knew that the
16 Vice President was going to be at the Capitol that day, but what was your understanding,
17 if any, of what was happening at the Capitol on January 6th?

18 A At -- I was not aware of the certification that was even, you know, a -- that
19 wasn't even a thing. Sounds funny, but it's true.

20 Q Sure. It sounds like you were focused on what you had to get done, but,
21 you know, in the days leading up to that, you're on the first floor, near the chief of staff's
22 office, comings and goings of happenings.

23 It's been reported publicly that, you know, the Vice President and the President
24 were meeting, and a bunch of people were coming in to talk about what could happen at
25 the joint session of Congress on January the 6th.

1 Are you aware of any of those discussions about the President's expectations or
2 discussions he had related to January 6th and the joint session of Congress?

3 A No.

4 Q Were you aware that the Vice President was meeting with the President on
5 like the 4th and 5th with outsiders about the election?

6 A No. They met regularly, but I didn't know the topic.

7 Q Did you ever hear about any disagreements between the President and the
8 Vice President in the days before January 6th?

9 A No.

10 Q All right. So, turning to the day of January 6th, we want to try to walk
11 through this as best we can with you, Mr. Harrison.

12 We've been going for an hour and 10 minutes. I don't know if you want to take a
13 break before we jump into this? But if you need something, we're happy to.

14 A I'm good.

15 Q Okay. Tell me what time did you get to work and where did you go when
16 you got to work on January 6th?

17 A I don't remember specifically. I probably got to work around 8:30, 8:15 or
18 so.

19 Q Where do you remember going?

20 A To my office or to my little desk.

21 Q And what did you do in the morning? I'm going to divide the day between
22 pre-rally, rally, and post-rally.

23 A Pre-rally, again, I don't have specifics. I can't remember specifics. But I
24 would have been at my desk, you know, kind of getting to emails and things like that, and
25 making sure that, at least my side, you know, the kind of logistical side of things was

1 covered for the President to -- again, it wasn't a long ride. It was a very short little
2 motorcade, but, you know, it would have been more kind of logistical things, making sure
3 those were covered. And just, again, I was mainly at -- I was at my desk that whole
4 morning.

5 Q Did you recall having any meetings or conversations with Mr. Ornato that
6 morning before the rally?

7 A I mean, we shared an office. So, I mean, we were -- we had spoken, and
8 we did speak, but I don't remember anything of exactly what was discussed.

9 Q All right. I'll ask it this way, do you remember having any conversations
10 with Mr. Ornato that morning about expectations for the rally or what would happen in
11 Congress later that afternoon?

12 A Nothing specific.

13 Q Did you have any meetings or conversations with Mr. Meadows that
14 morning?

15 A No.

16 Q Did you talk to the President that morning?

17 A No.

18 Q Did you go to the rally on the Ellipse?

19 A No.

20 Q What did you do while the rally was going on?

21 A I stayed at my desk.

22 Q Did you watch the President's remarks?

23 A No.

24 Q Did you have anything to do with the President's remarks, edit his speech,
25 make suggestions about what he should say, anything at all?

1 A No.

2 Q So, at some point during the speech -- and I'm going to summarize and not
3 quote exactly -- but the President said something to the effect of "let's go down to the
4 Capitol."

5 Were you aware the President said that during his speech?

6 A I think -- yes, I was.

7 Q How did you first learn about that?

8 A Twitter.

9 Q All right. Were there any conversations about that in the White House on
10 the 6th after the President said that, that you're aware of?

11 A No.

12 Q Any planning that you were a participant -- in which you participated, rather,
13 about the President going to the Capitol on the 6th?

14 A No.

15 Q Do you know whether Mr. Ornato or anybody else talked to the Secret
16 Service or anyone about making arrangements for the President to go to the Capitol that
17 day?

18 A I mean, I think that -- again, I don't know this for fact or specifics, but I
19 remember, you know, the -- kind of the understanding was if for whatever reason it were
20 to come up, it should be directed as with any game-time decision, it should be directed to
21 the Secret Service, to, you know, Bob Engel or Robert Engel, you know, if that could
22 happen.

23 Q Okay. And after the President said he was going to march or even shortly
24 before, but on that day of January 6th, are you aware of those conversations or
25 communications happening with the Secret Service or otherwise?

1 A No.

2 Q So my understanding is that the President returned from the Ellipse to the
3 White House around 1:19 in the afternoon.

4 Did you ever meet with the President, or were you present in a meeting with
5 others and the President on the afternoon of the 6th?

6 A No.

7 Q Do you know where the President was on the afternoon of the 6th?

8 A In the Oval Office.

9 Q Did you see him in there?

10 A No.

11 Q How do you know he was in the Oval Office?

12 A I mean, I guess because there were -- that's where people were kind of
13 coming and going from. And, you know, you can tell, you know -- I don't know if this is
14 sensitive or not -- but you can tell, you know, there's officers and things around when the
15 President is in office, and when he's not in office, the footprint shifts a little bit.

16 Q Understood. When you say Oval Office, does that include the dining room?
17 Do you know whether he was in the Oval Office versus the dining room attached to the
18 office?

19 A I imagine both.

20 Mr. Passantino. I'm sorry. If you know -- I'm sorry.

21 Mr. Harrison. No. I don't have specifics on when he was in the office part or
22 the dining room part. I kind of consider those kind of an extension of the Oval Office.

23 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

24 Q And it sounds like you never saw or met with the President that afternoon.
25 But did you ever talk to anybody about what the President was doing that afternoon?

1 A I mean, no.

2 Q Did you ever hear, for example, that -- I don't know -- he was watching TV or
3 making arrangements with the Department of Defense, anything like that?

4 A That, I don't know.

5 Q Okay. And -- just to be very clear, I mean, hearsay is okay. So some of the
6 questions I'm asking you are specifically did you hear other people talking about it or did
7 they tell you this was happening as opposed to your firsthand knowledge.

8 So, with that in mind, I mean, did you ever hear about what was going on in the
9 Oval while working in the White House on the 6th?

10 A I mean, firsthand knowledge, no. Hearsay was that the President was in
11 the Oval Office in the dining room, you know, kind of, you know, going about his day.

12 Q Who did you hear that from?

13 A That would have been from -- I don't know anybody specifically that that
14 would have been from. But that was, I think, you know, kind of -- from folks that were
15 around.

16 Q You mentioned one of the ways that you thought the President was in the
17 Oval that day was that was where people were going to or coming from.

18 Who do you remember going to or coming from the Oval on the 6th?

19 A The only person that I can remember specifically is Mark Meadows just
20 based off of, you know, my -- where I was situated. That's just because he would have
21 to walk -- essentially he leaving his office would have to walk past our door to get down
22 there.

23 Q Did he ever stop into the office you share with Mr. Ornato on the afternoon
24 of the 6th to talk about what was going on?

25 A I don't remember. I don't remember that.

1 Q Do you remember any conversations that you had or overheard with Mr.
2 Meadows in the afternoon of the 6th?

3 A No.

4 Q What was your understanding of what Mr. Ornato was doing, if anything, to
5 respond to the events or the riot happening at the Capitol that afternoon?

6 A I think Tony's focus was making sure that Mark, Mark Meadows, had kind of
7 an accurate sense of, you know, what was going on in real time.

8 Q Did he ask you to do anything to help with that, either getting information
9 that he could pass along or otherwise?

10 A I mean, yes. I mean, but that was, you know, just kind of, again, following
11 open-source reporting, and you know, receiving updates from the Secret Service, you
12 know, similar to the exhibits that you guys, you know, displayed earlier.

13 Q When you say open source, I think I know what you mean, but I don't want
14 to assume. So just describe that for me.

15 A That would be, again, off of, you know, online, you know, news reporting
16 through various outlets and then kind of a conglomeration of a Twitter feed.

17 Q One of the things that has been reported is that the President that afternoon
18 was sitting in the dining room and watching the news coverage of what was happening at
19 the Capitol.

20 Have you heard that from your time working in the White House?

21 A The only -- my only -- you know, my awareness of that is, again, just from
22 what I have read over the last year and some change.

23 Q Okay. You never heard that in real time on the 6th or in the days after the
24 6th from people who saw it or heard about it at the White House?

25 A No. But that was not an -- that was an extension of his working space.

1 Q Okay. One of the things that have been said, but we're asking the question
2 here, was the President was there pausing the TV or certain aspects of the news
3 coverage, rewinding it, watching it over and over again.

4 Do you have any knowledge about that at all?

5 A No.

6 Q Aside from scouring open-source information or getting stuff from the Secret
7 Service, what else were you doing that afternoon, if anything, related to the events at the
8 Capitol?

9 A Nothing else.

10 Q The President put out a series of tweets -- and we won't go through all of
11 them -- and eventually put out a statement from the Rose Garden or was recorded in the
12 Rose Garden.

13 Did you have any involvement at all in what the President would or would not say
14 on the -- on January 6th?

15 A No.

16 Q Did you hear any discussions about the need for the President to make a
17 statement on January 6th?

18 A No.

19 Q Did you ever hear that people were encouraging the President to make a
20 statement, a forceful statement, telling people at the Capitol to go home, to leave the
21 Capitol on January 6th?

22 A No.

23 Q One of the people that's been reported to have participated in that effort
24 was the President's daughter, Ivanka Trump, and that she was in and out of the Oval that
25 afternoon.

1 Did you see Ms. Trump going in and out of the Oval that afternoon?

2 A First, no. Firsthand, no, did not.

3 Q Did you hear about Ms. Trump's efforts to get the President to say
4 something or do anything at all on January 6th, other than public reporting?

5 A No.

6 Q I'm going to show you some specific exhibits, but I'll see if Mr. [REDACTED] has
7 anything at this point?

8 Mr. [REDACTED]. No.

9 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

10 Q Let's go to exhibit -- I'm going to pull up exhibit 4 here. All right. Can you
11 see exhibit 4, Mr. Harrison?

12 A Yup.

13 Q Great. So this is a message from you. And there is the email address.
14 Is that the email address you used at the White House, the William.B.Harrison?

15 A Yeah. That's right.

16 Q This was on January 6th. Again, accounting for how we receive these and
17 the time stamps, it looks like this was about 3 o'clock in the afternoon that you sent this
18 to Mr. Engel, Mr. Ornato, and copied [REDACTED]

19 Who is [REDACTED]?

20 A David was the other deputy special agent in charge of the President's detail.

21 Q All right. I'm scrolling to the bottom of page 1 of this exhibit. This is from
22 John. I'm going to say John. I don't know how to pronounce his last name.

23 A Guttsmiedl.

24 Q Guttsmiedl. Very good. I appreciate you helping me out with that.
25 From Mr. Guttsmiedl, on January 6th, at 2:55 in the afternoon, to Mr. Engel,

1 [REDACTED], this says that: DCFD reporting civilian shot in chest at
2 door of Chamber.

3 Mr. Engel about 10 minutes later sends that to Mr. Ornato and others, and then it
4 looks like you get it and acknowledge with a "thank you."

5 So can you just walk us through what this email is, if you recall, and when you first
6 learned that somebody at been shot at the Capitol?

7 A Yeah. So this was -- this along with, you know, stuff that I had read online
8 was the first kind of real inclination that or indication that, you know, there had been
9 gunfire at the Capitol.

10 Q What was the discussion at the White House like about the shooting at the
11 Capitol, to the extent you were involved in it or aware of it?

12 A I don't remember there being a discussion about it. I think that my
13 memory of this exact moment was I got this email, as it shows that I responded to it, and
14 made sure that Tony was aware of it. And I remember Tony telling Mark Meadows that
15 somebody had been shot at the Capitol.

16 Q Tell us about that. What do you remember about Tony telling Mark
17 Meadows? Where did it happen? What did Tony say, and what did Mr. Meadows say
18 in response?

19 A I believe that it was -- I believe that it was in the hallway of the West Wing.
20 I can't remember specifically, but I think it was in the hallway, kind of right outside of our
21 exact office space. And I can't remember exactly what Mark said or did after that, but I
22 know that he -- I think he said: Okay. Got it.

23 And, you know, that was kind of the end of it.

24 Q Do you remember whether Mr. Ornato passed Mr. Meadows or gave Mr.
25 Meadows a note about it on, like chief of staff card stock or any White House letterhead?

1 A That, I don't remember. But, you know, wouldn't have been uncommon.
2 I mean, there's -- that's happened with a number of different -- not this specific instant,
3 but, you know, that happened a lot, you know, if he needed to have information. That
4 was a common practice.

5 Q Do you know where Mark Meadows went after learning from Mr. Ornato
6 that somebody had been shot in the Capitol? Was he headed in the direction of the
7 Oval Office, for example?

8 A I think so.

9 Q Do you know whether Mr. Meadows actually told the President that
10 somebody had been shot at the Capitol?

11 A I don't know.

12 Q Do you remember hearing that he was going to do that or intended to do
13 that?

14 A I don't know for a fact. I would -- I can -- I don't know.

15 Q And, again, I'm just asking you on that question specifically, did you
16 remember hearing that Mr. Meadows was going to tell the President or intended to tell
17 the President that somebody had been shot?

18 A I never heard anything. You know, there was never an expression that he
19 said -- you know, he never said "I'm going to tell the President this" or that "I intend to
20 tell this." But I think that was, you know, kind of easy to pick up that that was kind of
21 what the plan was.

22 Q All right. So now I'm going to pull up exhibit No. 5. Can you see exhibit
23 No. 5 there?

24 A Yeah.

25 Q You can. Okay. Great.

1 And I should have asked you this before, but in the last exhibit we just looked at, it
2 showed that I think you received something around 3:05ish, but it says that -- by the
3 timestamp, that you forwarded or responded to it at 8:05.

4 Do you think you responded to it right away as opposed to waiting 5 hours until
5 8 o'clock at night to respond?

6 A Yes.

7 Q Okay. And the same thing here. So this is an email from you to Mr. Engel,
8 Mr. Ornato, copying [REDACTED] It shows here a timestamp of 8:37 p.m.,
9 but it looks like you are responding to an email that Mr. Engel sent at 3:36 p.m.

10 So same question, do you think you responded right away as opposed to 5 hours
11 later?

12 A Yes.

13 Q Okay. And I'm going to go to the bottom there. I've already forgotten
14 how to pronounce his name, but John sends an email Mr. Engel, [REDACTED]
15 [REDACTED], and it says there a number of things in about five lines.

16 But can you take a look at that and just explain what that means to you. That's
17 not in normal speak, at least as I read it. We can go line by line.

18 So the first one says: 2 Unk PD --

19 A Yeah, that would be -- my read of that would be two unknown PD reported
20 down at Constitution and Delaware, one unconscious not breathing. So that would be
21 two uniformed police officers of the, you know -- I don't know if -- I guess it's unknown at
22 the time if they're Capitol Police or if they're MPD or, you know, where their jurisdiction
23 was or where they were assigned to. One unconscious not breathing is -- that's that -- I
24 would understand that exactly as its written.

25 Q Okay. And then the next line?

1 A 41 DC National Guard en route to Capitol.

2 My understanding would be, you know, as was written, but you know, there's no
3 indication of what they would do when they got to the Capitol, but they were headed
4 there.

5 Q Okay. And let me pause you there.

6 What was your role, if any, with respect to getting the National Guard to the
7 Capitol that afternoon?

8 A None.

9 Q Do you know whether Mr. Ornato had any role in getting National Guard to
10 the Capitol?

11 A No.

12 Q What's your understanding of how the National Guard were ordered or
13 directed to go to the Capitol that afternoon?

14 A I'm not sure. I don't know. That call would not come from -- that call
15 would not come from White House staff.

16 Q Do you know whether Mr. Meadows made that call to get the National
17 Guard to the Capitol?

18 A I don't know.

19 Q All right.

20 Then it says the next line there: DC National Guard QRF being mobilized.
21 What, to you, does QRF mean?

22 A It's a quick reaction force or a quick response force. And so, you know,
23 that's kind of is in tandem, I guess, with that second sentence, you know, would be them
24 being mobilized. Me, I don't know where -- I guess they were coming from, you know,
25 wherever they were to the Capitol.

1 Q Okay. Do you know where Mr. Guttsmiedl was getting this information?

2 A I don't know for a fact, but I would, you know, imagine that it would be a
3 combination of, again, open source info, and, you know, information from their
4 Protective Intelligence Division.

5 Q It also says on the next line: Montco PD CDU arrived at Capitol.
6 What's that mean to you?

7 A That would mean -- I think that would mean a Montgomery County Police
8 Department. CDU is Civil Disturbance Unit or -- yeah, I think that's right -- arrive at -- are
9 on scene at the Capitol.

10 Q Did you or Mr. Ornato have any role in getting the Montgomery County
11 Police Department to respond to the Capitol that afternoon?

12 A No.

13 Q Do you know anybody in the White House who did have a role in getting
14 them to respond to the Capitol that afternoon?

15 A No.

16 Q All right. Next one says: Hoosier still on Capitol complex, holding in
17 tunnel.

18 Do you understand Hoosier to be the Vice President?

19 A That's right.

20 Q Mr. Engel receives this information and sends it to you, Mr. Ornato, Mr. Cho,
21 Mr. Arruda, saying: Update.

22 What, if anything, did you do with this, which may be informed by the next email?

23 A So I don't remember this specifically, but I think that this was -- this was the
24 information that I think -- I think I wrote it down and gave it to Tony, who then passed it
25 to Mark Meadows. And I think that's, as is indicated: Received and passed to chief of

1 staff.

2 Q Okay. So you didn't pass this information specifically from you and to Mark
3 Meadows. You think it went through Mr. Ornato?

4 A That's right.

5 Q And do you know where Mr. Ornato was when he gave this information to
6 the chief of staff? Does he do it in your office? In the hallway? In the Oval?

7 A I don't have a specific memory, but I think it was probably in passing.

8 Q In passing, meaning like, in the hallway, he tracked down Mr. Meadows?

9 A Yes.

10 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

11 Q Do you remember Mr. Ornato getting emotional about the fact that there
12 were two police officers down and one was unconscious and not breathing?

13 A Getting emotional?

14 Q Right.

15 A No.

16 Q Did he ever tell you that he went in to deliver a message, whether about this
17 or anything else, to the dining room of the Oval Office?

18 A Not that I -- not any -- not that I know specifically, but I think that, you know,
19 when this specific notification came through, I think that Tony went to go find Mark, you
20 know, wherever he was to deliver it.

21 Q And did he ever at any point that day relay to you having seen the President
22 in the dining room, that is Mr. Ornato, with his own eyes?

23 A Not that was discussed.

24 Q Did Mr. Ornato express any opinion to you whether enough was being done
25 to address the riot at the Capitol now that police officers were injured?

1 A I don't remember.

2 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

3 Q Did Mr. Ornato say anything about Mr. Meadows' reaction to getting this
4 information that two police were down, one unconscious, not breathing, National Guard
5 was coming, Montgomery County Police was coming, and that the Vice President was
6 being taken off or carted off to a tunnel in the Capitol?

7 A No.

8 Q Now, I'm going to pose this somewhat I guess hypothetically or in the realm
9 of possibility, but you know, people I work with very closely and share office space with,
10 they'll come back and tell me about things that are going on: You won't believe I just
11 saw this, or I just heard this or that.

12 Did Mr. Ornato ever come back to the office where you were on the afternoon of
13 January 6th and report that he had just spoken with the President and Mr. Meadows and
14 this happened, this is our discussion about the -- the events happening at the Capitol?

15 A I don't remember anything -- any specifics of that happening.

16 Q Did you ever make any recommendations to anybody that, you know, we
17 need to get DOD or National Guard or Homeland Security or anybody else to the Capitol?

18 A No.

19 Q Do you remember hearing that the President made any calls to Department
20 of Defense or DOJ or DHS or Secret Service to address what was happening?

21 A Nothing specific.

22 Q Anything generally that you're aware of?

23 A No.

24 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

25 Q What was the mood or atmosphere like in the office while the riot was

1 going? Was it business as usual, or how would you describe it?

2 A Not -- I don't think business as usual. I think it was, you know, there was
3 awareness of, you know, an ongoing situation. And I think that, you know, at least, you
4 know, from our perspective, meaning, you know, the folks that were responsible for the
5 actual White House campus itself, was, you know, staying updated in real time, you know,
6 if, for whatever reason, you know, the attention was to shift to the White House itself.

7 Q Did anyone really think that the White House was going to be -- from what
8 you're perceived that day, that the White House was in danger, given the events at the
9 Capitol and who the people were that were there?

10 A I don't think so, but I think just the, you know, the number -- the number of
11 people and the interest, you know, was different than -- that was not a normal day. So I
12 think, again, kind of just trying to stay ahead of the game with planning and -- yeah.

13 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

14 Q You know, people have said that there was a sense of urgency amongst staff
15 at the White House; you know, this is something that's really significant that was going on
16 at the Capitol.

17 Would you share that sentiment that there was a sense of urgency amongst staff?

18 A A sense of urgency? I don't know about urgency, but I mean -- I think there
19 was a shared, you know, a shared, you know, feeling that it was not a, you know, that it
20 was not a normal Wednesday or Tuesday -- Wednesday.

21 Q Okay. Is there anything in your mind that you remember happening or
22 seeing or hearing about that makes you think that?

23 A Nothing -- no specifics.

24 Q Okay. And, just to be clear, other than seeing what was going on at the
25 Capitol; I'm talking about things that were happening at the White House?

1 A Yeah. Nothing, you know, that we were seeing at the White House.
2 Obviously, like you said, you're seeing a bunch of people -- reports of people getting shot.
3 There's reports of officers being, you know, reportedly being down. That's, again, a little
4 out of norm.

5 Q Do you remember discussions about people resigning? Did anybody come
6 to you and say, "This is too much, I'm quitting today"? Because there were a number of
7 resignations on the 6th.

8 A Yeah. I don't remember anything like that.

9 Q I'm going to pull up exhibit No. 6.

10 All right. Can you see exhibit No. 6 there?

11 A Yes.

12 Q All right. This is William B. Harrison email letterhead, I suppose is a way of
13 describing it. But what it looks like when you printed out, at least what I'm familiar with
14 when you print it out, from Mr. Engel, to Mr. Ornato, copying you, [REDACTED]
15 with updates.

16 And this is January the 6th. This one appears to be the correct time of 3:54, and
17 it looks like a printout of an email from Mr. Guttsmiedl to Mr. Engel -- I got
18 it -- [REDACTED], again with an update, and there are it looks like a
19 handwritten bracket with a star.

20 Do you recognize this email?

21 A Not specifically. But again, I think that's probably my -- I mean, if it's on my
22 letterhead or with my header on the top, that would have been me printing this out, and
23 that's probably my handwriting as well.

24 Q Okay. Do you remember printing out any emails to give to anybody at the
25 White House that afternoon on the 6th?

1 A Nothing -- I mean, nothing specific. No specifics. I mean, this would have
2 been something I passed to Tony, who probably then passed it to Mark Meadows.

3 Q Okay. Do you think that that's actually what happened looking at this now
4 as you sit here today? You think you printed this out to give to Tony to give to Mr.
5 Meadows?

6 A I think so.

7 Q Okay. What was it about the information that's in this email from
8 Mr. Guttsmiedl with the bracket and star next to it that you thought Mr. Ornato and, as a
9 result, Mr. Meadows needed to have?

10 A My thought would be as it would be information as relates to the shooting,
11 the shooting update.

12 Q Okay. So the information that follows there that says: Unknown who did
13 shooting or why reported on second floor in lobby of House floor.

14 Were people in the White House asking for information about the shooting that
15 you recall?

16 A No.

17 Q Why did you think that was important to pass along?

18 A I think it follows the -- I think it kind of follows the first update that was
19 passed, that there was an actual -- you know, there was shots fired.

20 Q And do you remember any conversations looking at this now that followed
21 about the shooting in the Capitol that day?

22 A Nothing -- no.

23 Q This email that is printed out here or that was printed out and shown here,
24 to be clear, says: 1,100 DC National Guard all activated, 200 -- the way I read
25 it -- Virginia State Police en route, 200 Maryland State Police en Route, 50 New Jersey

1 State Police en route, 4 hour estimated time of arrival.

2 Did you or Mr. Ornato have anything to do with activating the State Police that's
3 mentioned there?

4 A No.

5 Q Do you know if Mr. Meadows did?

6 A I don't know that specifically, but I don't think that -- I just don't know what
7 type of authority that he would have to do that. But I don't know.

8 Q Okay. But nothing you heard about suggested he was involved in activating
9 the State Police or National Guard that's referenced there?

10 A No.

11 Q I just note for you, Mr. Harrison and Mr. Passantino, that our Chief
12 Investigative Counsel, Mr. [REDACTED], has just joined us.

13 Mr. [REDACTED]. Hey, [REDACTED]. Thank you.

14 Mr. [REDACTED]. Just a moment, Mr. Harrison.

15 Mr. Harrison. Yup.

16 BY MR. [REDACTED]:

17 Q A few more questions, and I think we'll be wrapped up. We're in really
18 good shape here.

19 You mentioned at the beginning that you work for kind of partially GSA and
20 partially a political entity.

21 Do you still work for Mr. Trump?

22 A Yes.

23 Q What's your role with Mr. Trump right now?

24 A Operations director.

25 Q Did you talk to Mr. Trump about your subpoena -- I'm sorry -- outreach from

1 the select committee?

2 To be clear, we did not issue you a subpoena.

3 A No.

4 Q Okay. Did he or anybody else, other than Mr. Passantino, your attorney,
5 talk to you about what information you should or shouldn't provide to the select
6 committee?

7 A No.

8 Q And that includes documents.

9 Did anybody suggest to you documents to provide or not provide to the select
10 committee?

11 A No.

12 Q Is there any other information that we haven't gone over that you think
13 would be helpful for us as we go through and figure out events related to January
14 the 6th?

15 A No.

16 Q Okay.

17 A I can give you a couple more pronunciations of names, if you need that.

18 Q I probably could use that, and I appreciate that.

19 Mr. [REDACTED]. I think Guttsmiedl is enough for the day.

20 Mr. Harrison. [REDACTED] is the other one on there.

21 Mr. [REDACTED]. You can tell how good I am with languages.

22 I'll see, Mr. [REDACTED], do you have any questions for Mr. Harrison?

23 Mr. [REDACTED]. No, [REDACTED] I don't.

24 Mr. [REDACTED]. Okay. I appreciate it. At this point, I think we're good, and we
25 can go off the record.

1 [Whereupon, at 11:49 a.m., the interview was concluded.]

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Certificate of Deponent/Interviewee

I have read the foregoing ____ pages, which contain the correct transcript of the
answers made by me to the questions therein recorded.

Witness Name

Date